

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (cancelled).

2-10. (cancelled)

11. (currently amended) A method for treating congestive heart failure, said method comprising:

placing a band having a first end and a second end around a beating heart,
wherein the band is configured to leave a gap between the first and second ends; and

drawing the first and second ends of the band toward each other by connecting a supporting spring member between the first and second ends of the band, the supporting spring member spanning the gap, to provide support to a myocardial wall of the heart.

12. (previously presented) A method as in claim 11, wherein the first and second ends are located on opposite sides of a region of infarcted tissue.

13. (currently amended) A method as in claim 12 ~~[[11]]~~, wherein the first and second ends adhere to opposite sides of ~~band adheres to the~~ region of infarcted tissue.

14. (currently amended) A method as in claim 11, wherein the supporting spring member ~~drawing~~ comprises disposing a spring under tension disposed between said first and second ends of the band, the band being non-distensible.

15. (previously presented) A method as in claim 11, further comprising delaying the drawing of the first and second ends for a preselected time after placing the band around the heart.

16. (previously presented) A method as in claim 15, wherein delaying the drawing of the first and second ends comprises allowing degradation of a biodegradable element incorporated into a spring element.

17. (previously presented) A method as in claim 15, wherein delaying the drawing of the first and second ends comprises holding the ends apart with a biodegradable member.

18. (previously presented) A method as in claim 11, further comprising introducing the band to the heart.

19. (previously presented) A method as in claim 18, wherein the band is placed ~~further comprising introducing the band to a position of the heart~~ at or below the arterioventricular groove.

20. (previously presented) A method as in claim 18, wherein introducing comprises advancing the band via a subxiphoid approach.

21. (withdrawn) A method as in claim 11, wherein treating congestive heart failure comprises treating the anatomic complication of ventricle septal rupture.

22. (previously presented) A method as in claim 11, wherein treating congestive heart failure comprises treating the anatomic complication of mitral regurgitation.

23. (withdrawn) A method as in claim 11, wherein treating congestive heart failure comprises treating the anatomic complication of ventricular aneurysm.

24. (withdrawn) A method as in claim 11, wherein treating congestive heart failure comprises treating the anatomic complication of ATC.